

# NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

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## Coalition of Regional Stakeholders to Converge on Sacramento Wednesday for 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Sierra Day in the Capitol

**Auburn**—Representatives from 25 organizations with a broad array of interests connected to the Sierra Nevada will come together in Sacramento Wednesday, April 6, for the 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Sierra Day in the Capitol, where they will hold a series of meetings with the Legislature. Sierra Day is coordinated by the Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) to remind the Legislature of the importance of the Sierra Nevada region to the entire state, with a particular emphasis on how investing in Sierra Nevada watersheds benefits the rest of California.

“The Sierra Nevada is crucial to California in so many ways, not the least of which is the abundance of water we are receiving from the Sierra snowpack this year,” said Natural Resources Secretary John Laird, referring to the recent DWR snow survey results indicating that snowpack is 165 percent of the season average for this time of year. Secretary Laird will be on hand to welcome Sierra stakeholders to the Capitol. “Many important resources and recreational opportunities are provided by the Sierra and we must be mindful to protect them, not only for the people who live there, but for all Californians who enjoy the benefits that flow from this important region of our state.”

Laird co-authored legislation in 2004 which led to the creation of the SNC.

SNC Executive Officer Jim Branham said the day will be filled with short visits with legislators and their staff. “We want to make sure our Legislature is up to date and aware of the need to protect and enhance the many benefits the region provides, such as clean water, family recreation, a home for wildlife, and the opportunity for economic development through green jobs.”

Organizations representing local government, the agricultural community, conservation and environmental organizations, businesses, water resources agencies and other interests (*see a complete list below*) will be walking the halls and attending meetings in the Capitol. A feature of Sierra Day this year will be a wall display outside the Governor’s office focusing on the journey of water from the Sierra Nevada to end users throughout the state, highlighting the beneficial uses within the region itself.

This year the SNC and Sierra Day founding organizers—The Sierra Fund and Sierra Nevada Alliance—are welcoming the Mountain Counties Water Resources Association (MCWRA) as a key sponsor.

“Sierra Day in the Capitol is an excellent opportunity and forum for our association to partner with the Sierra Nevada Conservancy and connect with our state elected officials on matters of mutual interest relevant to the Sierra Nevada watershed,” said MCWRA Executive Director John Kingsbury. “The message we bring about the journey of water provides much needed exposure for the mountain counties region and places strong emphasis on the need for area-of-origin water rights protection, as well as demonstrating the value of Sierra water and its many uses.”

Other participating organizations this year include the Bear-Yuba Partnership, California Cattlemen’s Association, California Council of Land Trusts, California Forestry Association, California Land Management, California Rangeland Trust, California Ski Industry Association, California Trout, Nevada County Land Trust, Northern Sierra Partnership, O.A.R.S. (Outdoor Adventure River Specialists), Pacific Forest Trust, Placer Land Trust, Planning and Conservation League, Regional Council of Rural Counties, Sierra Business Council (SBC), Sierra-Cascade Land Trust Council, Sierra Foothill Conservancy, Sierra Water Workgroup, Southern Sierra Partnership, and Trust for Public Land.

Sierra Day will culminate with a reception at the Leland Stanford Mansion, 800 N St., at 5:00 p.m., sponsored by Sierra Business Council as part of its annual Sierra Vision Awards event. For more information on the SBC awards event, visit: [www.SBCouncil.org](http://www.SBCouncil.org), or contact Nikki Streegan, Sierra Business Council, (530) 582-4800.

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### ***About the Sierra Nevada Conservancy***

*Created in 2004, the Sierra Nevada Conservancy is a state agency whose mission is to improve the environmental, economic, and social well-being of the Sierra Nevada Region. In its first five years, the SNC, which receives no general fund tax dollars, has awarded nearly \$40 million in grants for projects including fuels reduction, conservation easements and acquisitions, and watershed and habitat restoration. Funding for these projects comes from Proposition 84 passed by voters in 2006.*